डा० अबरार अहमद : 4 बजे स्टेटमेंट के लिए कहा था मिनिस्टर साहब ने और मिनिस्टर साहब स्टेटमेंट देने के लिए यहां मौजूद हैं ।

The Minister of State for Home is here and he will make a statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Das Gupta, just a minute. Let me read out what Mr. Bhardwaj has written. I quote:

"I may kindly be allowed to make a statement in this Housee today, the 3rd August, 1993 at 5 o'clock on the order dated 2nd August, 1993 of the Chief Election Commissioner suspending the activities for holding elections in the country."

This is the letter written to the Chairman which I have received... (Interruptions).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, how is it that we are sitting beyond 5 o'clock? Nobody has decided to sit beyond 5 o'clock.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, it is already 5 o'clock... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the Members do not want to sit after 5 o'clock? ..(Interruptions)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

डा० अबरार अहमद : सुबह से जिस बात पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं इलैक्शन कमीशन के ऊपर उसके ऊपर मिनिस्टर साहब स्टेटमेंट देने को तैयार हैं लेकिन ये हाउस बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं ।

उपसभापति : पी० एम० सईद, आप बोलिए । ..(व्यवधान)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : महिलाओं के सम्मान की बात थी ...(व्यवधान)

[شری محمد سلیم : سہیلاؤں کے سمّان کی بات تھی ... "مداخلت"...]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I read out Mr. Bhardwaj's letter. I cannot do anything beyond that. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Take the sense of the House. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will take the sense of the House when the time comes. Still, it is not 5 o'clock. Till that time, let him make the statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Police Firing in Calcutta on 21st July, 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): Madam, on behalf of my senior colleague, I beg to make this statement. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, a Government which cannot react to a serious development even after 24 hours, does not deserve to be in the chair. They have taken more than 25 hours to react. (*Interruptions*). Why are they not reacting to the question of postponement of elections?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam Deputy Chairman, you should have given a ruling. You have read out the request of Mr. Bharat. You should have said what are going to do about it. You received a request. What are you going to do about it? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We received this letter from Mr. Bhardwaj. The Secretary-General telephoned to find out at what time the statement would be made because Mrs. Alva did not give any specific time as she also did now know. Then this letter came.

आप मेरी बात सुनिए । मेरे पास यह चिट्ठी आई । अब आपको बैठना है तो साढ़े पांच बजे के बाद भी बैठ सकते हैं और बैठना तो आप निर्णय कर सकते हैं । We will adjourn the House. We can have it tomorrow.

[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: The West Bengal Yuva Congress gave a protest call for laying siege on the Writers Building, the headquarters of the State Governmet, on 21-7-1993 against the alleged misdoings of the West Bengal Government, attacks on political workers by the CPM cadres, post-Panchayat poll violence, deteriorating law and order situation and increasing corruption in Government. (*Interruptions*).

According to the information received from the Government of West Bengal, on 21st July, 1993, large numbers of persons assembled at various places and tried to move towards Central Business District, commonly known as Dalhousie House, most of which was covered by prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. promulgated by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. (*Interruptions*). The protestors and the police clashed at many places. Police restored to use of forces, including the bursting of teargas shells and firing, to deal with the situation. The State Government's version is that there was damage to both private and public property in many places and that the policemen were injured in the mob attacks and hence police had to use force to deal with the situation. (*Interruptions*).

In all, 12 persons died in police firing, another 65 were admitted to the city hospitals. Out of these, 12 persons had bullet injuries, 19 persons were injured by bomb splinters, one persons by pellets and the rest by brick-batting. 88 policemen were injured, including 21 officers. 38 policemen were hospitalised. The police fired 119 rounds from rifles, muskets and revolvers and also burst 341 tear-shells.((*Interruptions*).

This version of the State Government is strongly refuted by the organisers of the protest. In their view, the police has used excessive force without any provocation. There were no barricades to stop people from movig towards the Writers Biulding. It is further alleged that force was used without giving adequate warning to the protestors. (Interruptions). In our democratic set-up resort to protest marches, rallies and agitations, to press for demands, is commonly adopted by barious groups. (*Interruptions*).

The hon. Home Minister visited Calcutta on 31st July 1993. During the visit, he met cross-sections of the people and also visited he injured persons in three hospitals. There is considerable resentment on the excessive use of force by the police. (*Interruptions*).

He also met Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Miister of West Bengal, and urged him to provide relief to the families of the deceased and those injured. He advised him to direct judicial inquiry into the incidents in view of the large number of persons injured ad killed as a result of the police firing on 21st July, 1993.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House doesnot want to sit after 5 o' clock, it is up to you. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is entirely up to the House. But the point... (*Interruptions*)... You should have before you permitted Mr. Sayeed to read his statement in such a hurry, taken the House into confidece. You did not take the House into confiedence. (*Interruptions*). You should have taken the House into confidence. The statement is not read. It has not been read. You cannot take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. (Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, now it is five o'clock. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you keep quiet.,I can ask hte sense of the House. If the House wants to sit. I will allow the discussion. If you do not want to sit after five o'clock, I will adjourn the House. (*Interruptions*) Do you want the House to be adjourned? (*Interruptions*).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for the day.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 4th August, 1993.